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REMARKS

Claims 1 and 5-16 are pending, with claims 12-16 being new.

Claims 1 and 5-11 stand rejected under 35 USC §102(b) as being anticipated by, or in the alternative, under §103(a) as being obvious over WO96/27766 to Brehm.

The Examiner states that figure 1 of the Brehm reference and Fig 1 of the present invention are identical. While they do have similarities, neither discloses or suggests the limitations of claim 1. Specifically, claim 1 has been amended to require that the outer-flame tube wall includes a first arrangement of ports including a single first row of ports and the inner flame-tube wall includes a second arrangement of ports including a single first row of ports, with the ports of the second arrangement being circumferentially aligned off-center with the ports of the first row of the first arrangement. Brehm does not disclose or suggest anything, either in the Figures or text, about 1) different arrangements of ports on the inner flame-tube wall as compared to ports on the outer flame tube wall, 2) the alignment of the two arrangements of inner and outer wall ports with respect to one another, and 3) certainly does not disclose or suggest that the alignment of the ports of the second arrangement be circumferentially aligned off-center with the ports of the first row of the first arrangement.

Brehm does note at col.5, lines 13-15, that "the openings and/or holes for mixed air streams 9 and 14 can be located differently." This does not distinguish between inner wall ports and outer wall ports or disclose or suggest any respective positioning of inner wall ports 9 with respect to outer wall ports 9, as is required in amended claim 1.

Therefore, Brehm does not anticipate or render obvious the present invention as claimed in claim 1.

The Brehm patent is owned by Applicant, the assignee of the present invention. Applicant has reviewed the history of the gas turbine described in the Brehm reference and such gas turbine with the design of the combustion chamber shown in that reference, was not on sale or publicly available prior to the priority date of the present invention, April 27, 2000.

In view of the above, it is believed that claim 1 is in allowable condition. Claims 5-11 all depend from claim 1 and are allowable for the same reasons as claim 1, as well as for the further limitations contained therein.

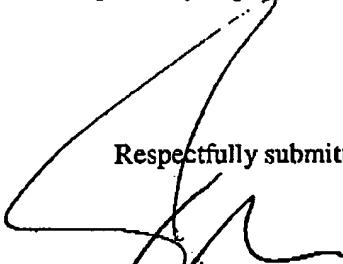
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Claims 2-4, currently withdrawn from consideration, also depend from claim 1 and are believed allowable for the same reasons as claim 1. Therefore it is respectfully requested that these claims also be allowed.

New dependent claims 12-16 all depend from claim 1 and are allowable for the same reasons as claim 1, as well as for the further limitations contained therein. No new matter has been added by these claims, as they are supported by the original specification as filed.

It is believed that the subject application is in condition for allowance and a notice to that effect is respectfully requested. If anything else of a minor nature is required to place this application in condition for allowance, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned by telephone.

Respectfully submitted,



Timothy J. Klima
Reg. No. 34,852

Harbin King & Klima
500 Ninth Street SE
Washington, DC 20003
Ph: 202-543-6404
Fax: 202-543-6406